

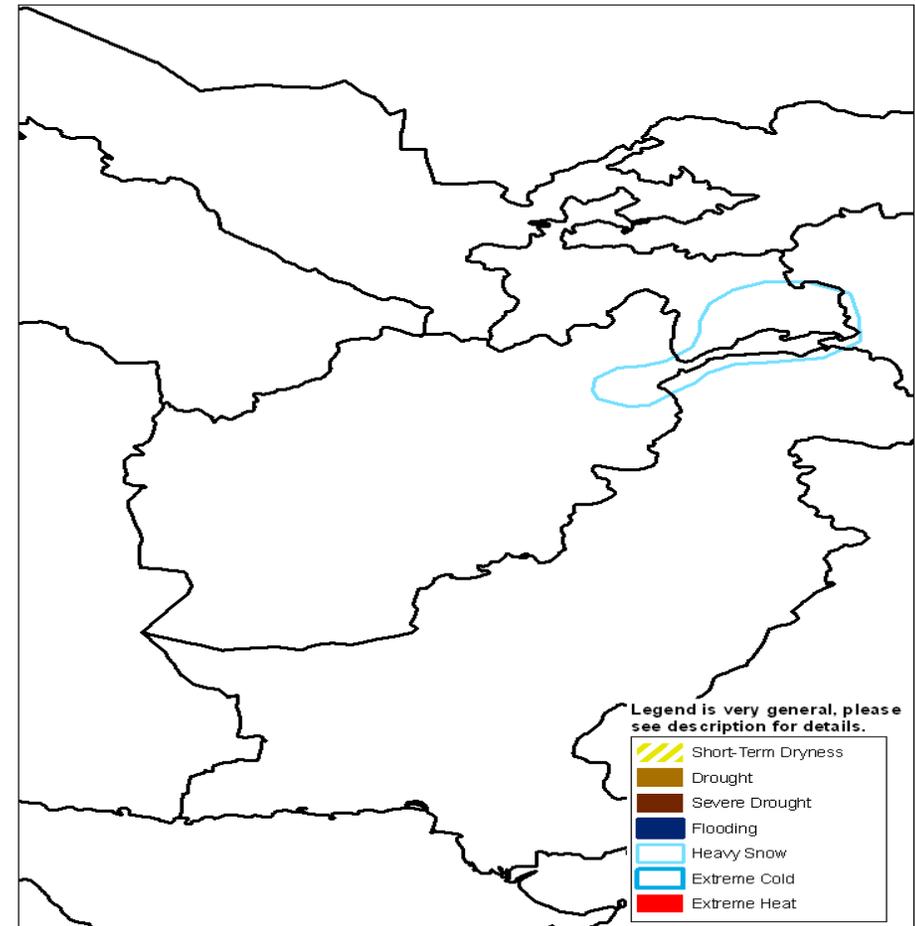
The USAID FEWS NET Weather Hazards Impacts Assessment for Afghanistan March 30 – April 5, 2011

Temperatures:

During early March, temperatures averaged much below normal across much of Afghanistan with the largest negative temperature anomalies in the central highlands. By mid-month, temperatures warmed to above average across the lowlands with the largest positive temperature anomalies in southern Afghanistan. The seasonal warming trend has likely triggered snow melt across the central highlands, but no flooding has been reported. During the next week, minimum temperatures are expected to fall below -20 degrees C at the highest elevations of northeast Afghanistan.

Precipitation

Since mid-January, periods of moderate to heavy precipitation have created precipitation surpluses for the winter season. From October 1, 2010 – March 20, 2011, precipitation is at least 150 percent of normal across Afghanistan, according to the USGS. Snow water volume charts from USGS indicate much above normal snow water values for much of the country. During the next week, occasional snow can be expected in the northeast mountains. Total snowfall accumulations are forecast to range from 30 to 50 centimeters. Across the remainder of the country, dry weather is forecast. Although snow melt is expected to continue in the central highlands, little or no rain should minimize the threat for widespread flooding.



Note: The Hazards assessment map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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